

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No such demand have been received for construction of new lines from Barabil to different places in Orissa. However, extension of 8183/8184 Tata-Danapur Express & other trains up to Barabil is not found feasible due to operational constraints including lack of spare terminal/maintenance facilities at Barabil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Abandoned rail projects

1921. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are there, as on 31st March, 2006, where the proposals for work were abandoned after incurring expenditure zone and year-wise; and

(b) total quantum of money that remain unproductive due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No railway project has been abandoned midway in the recent past. However, Kottayam-Erumeli and Diphu-Karong new lines had been dropped but no work had been done on these projects.

Sign boards of railway stations

1922. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in all the sign boards of railway stations name in Urdu language has also been added;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that Punjabi is the second language in the State of Haryana;

(c) whether he is aware that people from Punjab also use these trains because Haryana and Punjab are inter-connected; and

(d) whether he would issue orders for also writing the sign boards etc. in Punjabi language in Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, some stations' name boards falling under the specified districts have been displayed in Urdu also. As per extant policy, no new additions have been made recently.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the Haryana Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2004, Punjabi is the second language of Haryana.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the extant Language Policy of the Central Government, Station Name Boards, Sign Boards etc. in Haryana, are to be displayed in Hindi & English.

High speed trains

1923. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to run high speed train service between the long distance busy routes as well as considering to reduce the journey time by increasing the speeds of various long distance trains in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) how many trains would be benefited, particularly from Maharashtra bound trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) At present, high speed trains (speed above 200 kilometre per hour) are not run over Indian Railways. The fastest train running over Indian Railways, at present, is 2001/2002 New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express which attains a maximum speed of 150 kmph between Tughlakabad and Agra only. However, speeding up of passenger trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to availability of resources, requisite infrastructure and operational feasibility, irrespective of geographical boundaries. During the current financial year 2006-07, 657 trains have been speeded up and other 192 trains have been made superfast so far.